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Title: Need to extend the time limit on excise duty exemption for setting up industries in the earthquake affected Kutch district of Gujarat.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (KUTCH): Kutch is a remote dry area with limited infrastructure and scanty rain. The region is frequently affected by natural calamities. Particularly because of poor infrastructure, setting up a large industry in a limited time is too difficult. The State Government is therefore, representing to the Government of India for extending the time limit for exemption of Excise Duty upto December 2007, as also asking to make applicable, the liberal provisions as have been declared for Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Sikkim. With vigorous efforts of the State Government, 180 projects with investment of Rs. 7900 Crores have been commissioned, while 409 projects with total investment of about Rs. 32,000 crores were yet under implantation on 31.12.2005. Though the Government of India has extended the time limit till December 2005, the extension in such a piecemeal way, actually does not help. Extension of time limit till December 2007 and applicability of liberal provisions will give further boost to the economy of this remote dry region, and it will be possible to exploit full benefits of developing infrastructure Central Government did not agree to extend the time limit.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government through you to consider the extension of time limit for Excise Duty exemption upto 2007 for setting up the units in earth quake affected Kutch district of Gujarat.